

JUL 13 1954

[redacted] Company

I am writing to ask your assistance on a matter of considerable importance to our national security.

This Agency is charged with producing intelligence on the economic capabilities of the major foreign powers to guide our policy makers in the current world situation. One of the most important parts of this work is the analysis of the structure, techniques, capabilities, and vulnerabilities of the machine tool and producers equipment industries of the principal foreign countries and especially of the Soviet bloc. We have established a unit containing engineers and economists to carry on this important work, and we are looking for an outstanding man to head this unit.

Because of the nature of the information available such a man must combine wide practical experience in the producers goods industries with a keen analytic mind and a capacity to draw valid general conclusions from the mass of detailed information which is available. One of your staff, [redacted] has performed outstanding work for the Government in the past, and inquiries here in Washington suggest that he would be ideally qualified to help us get this work under way.

I am writing to inquire whether you could spare [redacted] for a year or two to help us with this urgent assignment. As you know, salaries in Government are not high and we could pay him only \$10,000 a year. There is, however, no obstacle to his salary being supplemented by the [redacted] Company should you care to undertake this kind of an arrangement.

We have not discussed this matter with [redacted] feeling that we should take it up with you first. If you are willing to consider such an arrangement we would be glad to have [redacted] come to Washington at our expense to discuss the problem in greater detail.

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I am aware that any competent man in industry today is likely to be regarded as indispensable where he is. I hope, however, that in recognition of the urgent importance to the national security of the work we are doing you will give serious consideration to this request.

Sincerely,

WBS

Walter B. Smith
Director

WBS:at

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